

## **ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT APPROVAL**

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**STATE BOARD MEETING DATE** December 8, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Set the Passing Standard for Revised Elementary Education and Social Studies Content Exams

**SUBMITTED BY:** Jan Amator, Deputy Associate Superintendent of Highly Qualified Professionals

**MANAGEMENT TEAM REVIEW:** November 13, 2008

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

ARS§15-533(A) states, “To qualify for either a basic or standard teaching certificate.... A person must pass each component of the proficiency examination.” In November 1997, the Arizona Department of Education adopted new rules regarding the evaluation of educators applying for state certification. The new rules required that applicants for certification pass a test of subject knowledge. Candidates for teacher certification must also pass a test of professional knowledge and meet a requirement for understanding the United States and Arizona Constitutions. The purpose of the Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment (AEPA) program is to ensure that each certified educator has the necessary knowledge to practice effectively in Arizona public schools. The RFP adopted by the State Board of Education June 2004, provided for the revision of the Social Studies and the Elementary Education assessments.

The test development process that ADE and The Evaluation Systems Group of Pearson designed for the AEPA involves numerous steps to ensure that the tests are customized for the Arizona educational context, aligned with Arizona educational standards, and judged to be appropriate and important for assessing the knowledge and skills required of entry-level educators by the State of Arizona.

The Arizona Academic Standards provide the basis of the test objectives for these Elementary Education and Social Studies content exams.

During the revision of the Elementary Education and Social Studies exams, Evaluation Systems of Pearson consulted Arizona documents, collaborated with Arizona educators, validated each test objectives in multiple ways and engaged Arizona educators in providing professional judgments concerning the passing standards for each AEPA.

Key Components of the process that the ADE and Evaluation Systems of Pearson employed to the Elementary Education and Social Studies content exams are summarized below:

- Establishment of Arizona Content and Bias Review Committee
- Definition and Review of Test Content
- The Content Validation Survey
- Distribution of Final Test Objectives
- Preparation of Test Items
- Bias and Content Review of Test Items
- Preparation and Administration of the Elementary Education and Social Studies AEPA’s
- Determination of Passing Standards

One of the Area Directors from the Evaluation Systems of Pearson will be in attendance at the December Board meeting to respond to questions and provide guidance in establishing the recommended passing standard for the Elementary Education and Social Studies content exams.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED: ☐ INFORMATION ☒ ACTION/DESCRIBED  
BELOW

- Adopt the passing standard for the AEPA Elementary Education (01) exam as recommended by the Arizona Educator Assessments Advisory Committee (AEAAC).

**Recommendation:** Elementary Education - At Panel-based MC Passing Score 56  
After 2 years, the score will change to the At Panel-based MC Passing Score 60;  
The passing score of 60 will take effect with the September 2010 Elementary Education AEPA

See Attachment A, AEPA Pass Rate Analysis

- Adopt the passing standard for the AEPA Social Studies (03) exam as recommended by the Arizona Educator Assessments Advisory Committee (AEAAC).

**Recommendation:** Social Studies – At Panel-based MC Passing Score 57

See Attachment A, AEPA Pass Rate Analysis

**Attachments:** Yes ☒ No ☐